

## NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

### Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (SEIR/S)

#### Bel Marin Keys Unit V Expansion Hamilton Army Airfield Wetland Restoration Project Novato, Marin County, CA

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District (Corps) in collaboration with the California State Coastal Conservancy (Conservancy) and the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) are proposing to restore wetlands on the Bel Marin Keys Unit V (BMKV) property as an expansion of the Hamilton Wetland Restoration Project (HWRP). The Corps is the lead agency for this project under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Conservancy is the lead agency for this project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). BCDC is a cooperating agency.

**Abstract:** This report describes and analyzes the potential environmental effects of proposed restoration of tidal salt marsh and other wetland habitat at the BMKV site as an expansion of the HWRP. The final EIR/EIS for the HWRP was issued in 1998, and the project was authorized in the federal Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1999. The Conservancy purchased the BMKV site in 2001 with the intent of proposing restoration on the site. This report will support decision making by the Corps, Conservancy, and other responsible agencies to implement the proposed expansion and to ensure compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and other pertinent laws and regulations. The Final SEIR/EIS consists of two volumes: one volume contains the text of the SEIR/EIS, as revised, and the appendices; a second volume contains the comments received on the Draft SEIR/EIS and the responses.

The purpose of the BMKV expansion is to restore important tidal wetland habitat in San Francisco Bay and restoration at the BMKV site represents the implementation of local, regional, and national planning efforts. Three alternatives are analyzed in this document: Alternative 1 – Dredged Material Placement with Enlarged Pacheco Pond; Revised Alternative 2 – Dredged Material Placement with Seasonal Wetlands and Enlarged Pacheco Pond; and Alternative 3 – Natural Sedimentation with Enlarged Pacheco Pond. The alternatives include restoration of tidal and other wetland habitats, construction and improvement of levees, installation of new water conveyance structures, and construction of a recreational trail, among other elements. The environmental consequences of each alternative are discussed. Where significant impacts are identified, mitigation is proposed where feasible mitigation has been identified. The Corps and the Conservancy have selected revised Alternative 2 as the preferred alternative, which is also the environmentally superior alternative.

Federal, state, and local agencies and the public have an opportunity to comment on this final document during a **30-day comment period between May 16, 2003 and June 15, 2003**. Information on the project can be found on the Internet at <http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/belmarin>. The document is also available at the City of Novato downtown library and the Marin County central library.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Written comments about the proposed action and Final SEIR/EIS can be addressed to:

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